

Regarding the use of personal wireless telephone handsets during aircraft flight:

I oppose the use of voice over these handsets during flight. This would seriously degrade the quality of air travel as a dozen or more people would end up shouting over the white noise of the aircraft cabin and over each other. It's tense enough about aircraft; let's not increase the tension any more. It's not practical to sequester these users and repeated examples from every other public venue, from banks to restaurants to theatres to train travel, show that self-regulation and "common sense" fails. Utterly.

However, I would strongly encourage the option to use data services provided by such handsets, including short message services (SMS), GSM/GPRS web and email services, and tethering of the handset to devices such as personal computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs). This would go a long way toward addressing the concerns of travelers who want to make productive use of the time in the air but presently feel they have no option but voice.

In short: no on cellular voice handset use, but a strong YES on cellular data services use.